OCI No. 2209/64

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Office of Current Intelligence 9 August 1964

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment of Post Strike Reconnaissance over North Vietnam (Pierce Arrow Missions 1001 and 1002)

- 1. Four of the five installations attacked by US fighters on 5 August were covered by reconnaissance missions flown during and immediately following the attacks. The timing of the photographic coverage may mean that some damage was done that was not photographed.
- 2. The NPIC readout gives us little that has not been previously reported. Most of the 16 POL storage tanks at Vinh showed damage and at least five were burning well in several places. Because most of the tank area is protected by a single revetment surrounding the whole area, the POL installation probably was largely destroyed.
- 3. About 10 patrol craft, both P-4 and Swatow motor torpedo boats, were also damaged, according to this photography. Several bodies can be seen on the shore near the Vinh POL storage and on the decks of patrol craft.
- 4. The mission aircraft were ordered to limit their attacks to the patrol craft and POL installations, and there is no indication of damage to port facilities or military installations, including AAA positions.

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5. Five briefing boards have been prepared. These cover Hon Gay/Bai Chai, Quang Khe, Hon Ne Island, and the POL storage installation at Vinh. In addition, there is a board showing an undamaged AAA position at Ben Thuy and a composite board of damaged patrol craft.